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✓ S. S. G. Oct. 9, 11.

Cousin Joseph Smith

Your letter from Plano of the 7th inst. was duly received.

You are no doubt aware that from the year 1835, until the time of his massacre I was intimately acquainted with your father, and on such terms of friendship with him as were enjoyed by but few others. In 1834, when on the journey to Missouri I was his armour bearer and stood guard at the tent in which was held his councils. I was present at the organization of the High Council at Kirtland and that of Missouri. Was ordained a member of the 5th High Council of the church which was organized at Adam-ondi-ahman.

I visited your father in Liberty jail during his incarceration, when he notified me that it was the will of God that I should be ordained one of the 12 apostles; after which I went on my mission to England which occupied about two years; starting from, "The foundation of the Lords house" in Far West, Missouri, where at the hazard of our lives a few of us re-commenced the foundation of the Temple; whence the brethren of the 12 took leave of the saints on the 28th of April 1839: I returned to Nauvoo from this mission in July 1841. At one of the first interviews hereafter with your father

I was greatly astonished at hearing from his lips the doctrine of Patriarchal marriage which he continued to preach to me from time to time. My last conversation with him on this subject occurred just previous to my departure from Nauvoo [May 9, 1844] in company with Elder H. Woodruff to attend conferences in Michigan; a duty assigned as by your father in carrying out his instructions to the 12 to hold conferences throughout the States, on which mission they were engaged at the time of his death, with the exception of Elders Roberts & Taylor who shared his dangers and participated with him and Hyrum in the bloody scenes enacted in Carthage jail.

In his last conversation he administered a little chastisement to me for not stepping forward as he had indicated in patriarchal marriage. He assured me that the man who had many virtuous wives had many great prizes; that he admitted that the man who had one virtuous wife had one great prize. He testified to me & to my father that the Lord had given him the keys of this sealing ordinance, since that he felt as liberal to others as he did to himself. He remarked that he had given Brigham Young three wives, Heber C. Kimball two, John Taylor three, Orson Hyde two, and many a number of others and said to me "you should not be behind your privileges". He had

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all along kept me posted as to many of his movements in introducing the patriarchal order of marriage.

On the 5th day of April, 1843, Louisa Coonan was married to your father, Joseph Smith, for time and all eternity, by Joseph E. Smith a high Priest of the Church. She remained true and faithful to him until the day of her death. She is still living.

June 4th, 1843, Lucy Ann Dicker was sealed to Brigham Young by your father in presence of Willard Richards.

On the 29th day of June, 1843, Brigham Young sealed Eliza W. Snow to your father, in presence of Wm. S. M. Chasland.

Sept 20th, 1843, Melissa Lott was married by Hyrum Smith to your father in presence of Cornelius B. Lott and Cornelia Lott.

May 1st, 1843, Lucy Walker was sealed to your father by Wm. Clayton in presence of Eliza W. Partridge.

May 11th, 1843, Emily W. Eliza W. Partridge were united to your father, by James Adams a high Priest in presence of your father, Emma Smith.

June 13th, 1843 Abner Richards was sealed by Wm. Richards to your father.

In July, 1843 Admonia Feltner was sealed by

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Brigham Young to your father in presence of H. C. Kimball
24th July 1843, Mary Ann Frost and Elizabeth Anthonston were
sealed to P. F. Pratt by Hyrum Smith Joseph being unwell,
in presence of Mary Ann Young.

Aug. 11th, 1843, Mary B. Thompson was married for time
to Hyrum Smith by your father in presence of Mary Smith.

In Aug. 23, Hyrum Smith married to Rev. Grover
by instruction of your father two wives, viz, Caroline Whitney
* Caroline S. Hubbard.

In November, 1843, Brigham Young sealed Fanny
Murray to your Father in presence of Mary Ann Young and
Hazel Crook.

In 1844, Hyrum Smith sealed Catherine Claxton
to Almond Egan. Egan had a wife at this time.

April 27th, 1844, Adeline B. Andrews was sealed by
Pres. Hyrum Smith to Ezra T. Benson in presence of Amelia
C. Benson, the first wife of Elder Benson.

Wm. Clayton your father's business clerk kept a daily
journal noting every evening a synopsis of the business
of the day so far as it came under his observation. On
the first day of May 1843, he made the following entries:
At the Temple, at ten, married Joseph Smith, ^{young} Mary
Feltner.

On the 12th day of July 1843, Clayton in his journal

copy; this is the first at Joseph's dictation & Revelation
consisting of two pages on the order of the Priesthood showing
the design on Moses, Abraham, David & Solomon having
many verses &c. After it was written, Presb. Joseph and Hyrum
presented & read it to Emma, who said she did not believe a
word of it, and appeared very rebellious.

A few of these casual items I have named may explain
to you why the following declaration was made by your father
on the 5th of April 1844: "You don't know me: you never knew
my heart. No man knows my history. I cannot tell it. I
shall never undertake it. I don't blame any one for
not believing my history. If I had not experienced what
I have I could not have believed it myself."

The inauguration of these principles were a severe test
to your mother. At times she received and resolved to
act upon the same. She gave your father four wives
with her own hands; this intelligence I had from your
father's mouth.

August 3rd 44, Hyrum Smith read the Revelation
on Patriarchal Marriage given July 12th, of that year, to
High Council then convened in his private office. Several
of these Counsellors are living and have given their test
to the Church.

On the return of Lorenzo Snow from Eng.

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he ascertained that his sister, Eliza, was the wife of your
 father: In relation to this subject, Lorenzo made the fol-
 lowing statements: In the month of April, 1842, returned
 from my European mission, a few days after my arrival at Nauvoo
 when at President Joseph Smith's house, he said he wished to have
 some private talk with me and requested me to walk out
 with him. It was toward evening, we walked a little distance
 and sat down on a large log that lay near the bank of
 the river; he then and then explained to me the doctrine of
 plurality of wives. He said that the Lord had revealed it
 unto him, and commanded him to have women sealed
 to him as wives, that he foresaw the trouble that would
 follow and sought to turn away from the commandments
 that an angel from heaven then appeared before him with
 a drawn sword threatening him with destruction, unless
 he went forward and obeyed the commandment.
 He further said, that my sister, Eliza R. Snow, had
 been sealed to him as his wife, for time and eternity.
 He told me that the Lord would open the way, so
 should have women sealed to me as wives. This
 conversation was prolonged I think one hour or
 more in which he told me many important
 things.

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When I (A.S.) returned to Hawroo from my mission in the fall of 1843, I met Kopyum at the landing, he accompanied me on the way to my home where he recited the most of the Revelation on patriarchal marriage and invited me to his house to receive further instruction. Next day, I called on your father who expressed his gratitude at the conversion of bro. Kopyum and gave me additional views on the subject, and ^{the} ^{part} the results of the same in the eternal world.

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Your father reasoned on these subjects in this
 wise. He said the Lord denounced in the bible
 every species of crime. He proclaimed against adultery,
 fornication and divorce, but never against plurality
 of wives, and in all places where his humble & faithful
 servants in obedience to his laws took a plurality of
 wives he blessed them for it. He punished King David
 severely for his adultery with the wife of Uriah; and
 while God by the mouth of His prophet was chastening
 him he says: "I gave thee thy masters house and thy
 masters wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of
 Israel & Judah and if that had been too little I would
 moreover have given unto thee such and such things."

When the passages in the book of Mormon concerning
 polygamy are repeated to your father he replied that "God
 had commanded us."

Any one who will read carefully the denials, as they are
 termed, of plurality of wives in connection with the
 instances will see clearly that they denounce adultery,
 fornication, but not bestiality and the taking of plurality of
 wives by those who were not commanded to do so; showing
 clearly that it was understood that such commandments
 would be given to others.

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In all kindness cousin Joseph after having been many years associated with your father, and scores of times heard him testify, that he had commanded him on pain of damnation to introduce this doctrine - that he had to do it as the people could bear it, you must not be astonished that I cannot receive your testimony that God has shewn to you that the doctrine of plurality of wives is untrue. When your father placed the authority to bear off the Kingdom on the twelve he gave them keys by which they could determine whether a revelation was from God or from some other source. Being one of the Twelve who received these Keys, testify that your testimony denying Plurality of wives is not from God.

I have given you a few incidents and facts as they existed, and in distributing your addresses I am only giving the folk who had an opportunity of hearing your fathers arguments an opportunity of comparing them with your own. The obligation which rested upon your father to establish this order of Patriarchal Marriage beyond the power of destruction seemed like a weight to crush him to the earth but knowing the redemption & exaltation of the human race depended upon it, notwithstanding the bigotry of his friends, the opposition of his own house, the

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universal tradition of the christian world, & the laws
 of Illinois against it; he felt to rejoice that he was enabled
 to fulfil his mission and place beyond the power
 of men to destroy an institution which would redeem
 the female sex from degradation and evil mankind
 to celestial glory and increase.

Enclosed find \$5.00 order in Chicago. Have the
 goodness to credit me for one years subscription on the
 Herald; the balance forward me in addresses as I have
 distributed all of had.

Affectionately Your Cousin

Geo. F. Smith